

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A pre-sterilized, disposable tip individually packaged for single use ~~in an ultrasonic dental insert~~, comprising:
- a monolithic polymeric ultrasonic dental scaler tip having a coupling element at a proximal end for attachment to an ultrasonic dental insert;
 - a sealed container individually packaging the tip, wherein the tip is sterilizable in the container.
2. (Original): The tip of claim 1 wherein the polymer is selected from nylon, polyethylene, or polypropylene.
3. (Original): The tip of claim 1 wherein the tip is injection molded.
4. (Original): The tip of claim 1 wherein the sealed container has been sterilized by gas permeation.
5. (Original): The tip of claim 1 wherein the sealed container has been sterilized by irradiation.
6. (Original): The tip of claim 1 wherein the coupling element comprises threads.
7. (Original): The tip of claim 1 wherein the container comprises paper.
8. (Original): The tip of claim 1 wherein the container comprises polymeric film.
9. (Currently Amended): A disposable ultrasonic dental scaler tip of injection molded nylon, polyethylene or polypropylene having screw threads at a proximal end for attachment to an ultrasonic dental insert, individually packaged in a sealed container comprising paper or polymeric film, and sterilized by gas permeation.
10. (Currently Amended): A method for supplying a sterilized, single-use, disposable tip for use with an ultrasonic dental scaler insert comprising:
- forming a monolithic polymeric ultrasonic dental scaler tip for the ultrasonic dental scaler insert;
 - individually packaging the polymeric tip in a sealed container; and

sterilizing the packaged tip.

11. (Original): The method of claim 10, further comprising:
coupling the individually packaged sterilized polymeric tip with other
individually packaged sterilized polymeric tips; and
packaging the coupled tips as a quantity package.
12. (Original): The method of claim 11, further comprising:
distributing the quantity package.
13. (Original): The method of claim 11, further comprising:
distributing the individually packaged sterilized polymeric tip to a dental
practitioner.
14. (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the sealed container is a vacuum-sealed
plastic packaging.
15. (Currently Amended): A method for using a disposable tip with an ultrasonic dental
scaler, comprising:
supplying a monolithic sterilized ultrasonic dental scaler polymeric tip in a sealed
container to a dental practitioner according to claim 11;
removing the tip from the packaging;
attaching the tip to a dental insert;
securing the dental insert in a handpiece of a an ultrasonic dental scaler;
operating the dental scaler to clean titanium implants; and
disposing of the tip after the operation.
16. (Original): The method of claim 15, further comprising:
distributing a quantity package comprising a plurality of the sealed containers.
17. (Currently Amended): A method comprising:
acquiring a monolithic polymeric ultrasonic dental scaler tip for an ultrasonic
dental scaler comprising a dental insert;
individually packaging the polymeric tip in a sealed container;
sterilizing the tip in the sealed container;
transporting the sealed container to a dental office;
removing the sterilized polymeric tip from the sealed container;
attaching the sterilized polymeric tip to the dental insert;

A!
Cont.

operating the polymeric tip to clean the teeth of a patient, wherein the patient has titanium implants; and
thereafter disposing of the polymeric tip.

18. (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising:
coupling the individually packaged sterilized polymeric tip with other individually packaged sterilized polymeric tips; and
assembling the coupled tips as a quantity package.
19. (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising:
removing the used tip from the dental insert for the disposal;
thereafter sterilizing the dental insert; and
repeating said removal, attachment and operation with a new tip, the sterilized dental insert, and a different person.
20. (New): The tip of claim 1 wherein the polymer deforms at autoclave conditions.
21. (New): The tip of claim 1 wherein the polymer changes color at autoclave conditions.
22. (New): The method of claim 10 wherein the polymeric tip comprises a polymer that deforms at autoclave conditions.
23. (New): The method of claim 10 wherein the polymeric tip comprises a polymer that permanently changes color at autoclave conditions.
24. (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the polymeric tip comprises a polymer that deforms at autoclave conditions.
25. (New): The method of claim 17 wherein the polymeric tip comprises a polymer that changes colors at autoclave conditions.
-